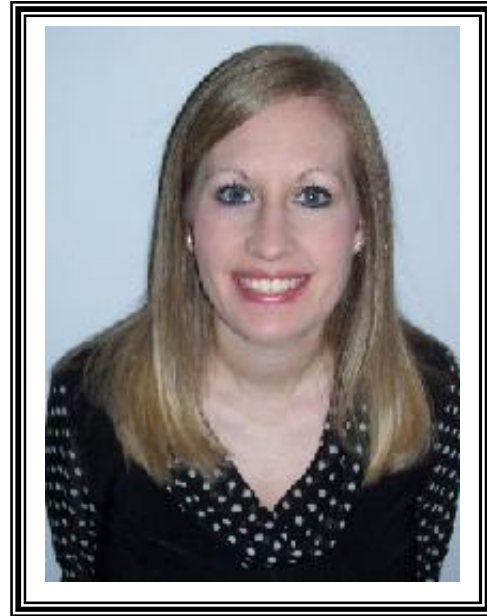


# Become A Special Educator In Tennessee

## Feature Story

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I am a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) with a Bachelor's degree in Recording Industry Management. After graduating from college in 2004, I worked in the music industry as a producer for a radio station based in Nashville. I loved my job, but there was something missing.

My parents worked in education. My father was a band director and my mother was a special education assistant at the local high school. Throughout my childhood, I participated in many of the social activities provided by the Special Education Department. During my senior year, I volunteered as a peer tutor. It came naturally to me, and I enjoyed being able to assist my peers in their academic and social endeavors. I was already in training for the job I now have.

After discussing my dilemma of wanting to do more with my life, I decided to research the requirements for become a Tennessee special education teacher. While seeking financial assistance, I discovered the Become A Special Educator in TN (BASE-TN) Program and applied for the grant. After a few agonizing weeks of waiting passed, I finally received a letter from MTSU. I had been chosen to receive BASE-TN financial support!

After completing my Plan of Study at MTSU, I immediately found a job teaching special education in a rural Tennessee school district. I am now completing my fourth year as a teacher of special education in Tennessee, and I still have a passion for it. Without the financial assistance from the BASE-TN Teaching Program, I would not have been able to achieve this goal. I am looking forward to a long and fulfilling career as a special educator, and I am eternally grateful to the BASE-TN Program for providing me with the means and opportunity to be able to serve so many children with disabilities in the Tennessee schools.